



CBP and ICE HSI Seize 132 drums of Honey

On August 12, 2016, import specialists from the Miami based Agriculture & Prepared Products Center along with U.S. Customs & Border Protection officers and special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations in Chicago, seized approximately 42 tons of illegally imported Chinese honey.

The honey was packaged in 132 fifty-five gallon drums that were falsely declared as originating from Taiwan to evade antidumping duties applicable to Chinese-origin honey. This represents the third significant seizure of honey in four months. The antidumping duties on this shipment of Chinese honey would be nearly \$180,299, based on the U.S. Department of Commerce rates, had CBP not intervened. The honey will be destroyed after the government completes an ongoing investigation into the full supply chain.

This seizure follows a string of successful criminal prosecutions by HSI agents in Chicago of multiple U.S. importers convicted of illegally transacting in smuggled Chinese honey disguised as Taiwanese or many other false origins. They were ultimately sentenced and deported.

Additional seizures in a number of other industries throughout the country are a great indication that CBP's efforts to detect and deter circumvention of AD/CVD are paying off.

Executive Assistant Commissioner for Trade Meets with Honey Producers in South Dakota

Antidumping circumvention schemes such as honey transshipment foster a divergent market that severely disadvantages legitimate importers, domestic producers, and consumers. They ultimately pose as a risk to U.S. economic security. As a key part of priority trade enforcement, CBP has established strong partnerships and works collaboratively with industry stakeholders to identify, penalize, and disrupt efforts to evade antidumping and countervailing duties.

In keeping with these efforts, Brenda Smith, the Office of Trade's executive assistant commissioner, recently traveled to honey farms in Winfred and Bruce, South Dakota. She held a roundtable with approximately 20 honey producers from the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Iowa to discuss effective ways to combat the growing problem of illegally imported honey in the Midwestern United States.



Pictured above, Bret and Richard Adee show Executive Assistant Commissioner for Trade Brenda Smith the few remaining bee hives at Adee Honey Farms before they are shipped to California for the seasonal almond crop pollination. Adee Honey Farms is the largest honey producer in the world, owning nearly 80,000 bee colonies.

Trilateral Customs Steel Enforcement and Cooperation Dialogue

On October 12, 2016, the United States participated in the first trilateral customs steel enforcement and cooperation dialogue hosted by the Canada Border Services Agency Ottawa, Canada. Officials representing the agency, CBP, and Mexico's Servicio De Administracion Tributaria spoke about their concerns with steel imports affecting economies and steel industries throughout the North American Region. They are committed to strengthening steel enforcement throughout North America, communicating commonalities of steel products subject to additional import duties (antidumping and countervailing), and tackling issues surrounding the tactics used to evade these duties, such as transshipment, misclassification, and undervaluation.

Opportunities for joint or parallel operations and information sharing of best practices, trends, and non-company specific instances of duty evasion, within the limits of each country's privacy laws were among the key proposals. These discussions set the stage for continued trilateral meetings and engagement to establish compliance operations essential to addressing steel enforcement across North America.

The regional customs officials also participated in the North American Steel Committee meeting held October 13-14 and spoke about the proposed opportunities for customs trilateral enforcement and cooperation.

